



Scandinavian Handwriting

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OBJECTIVE

You will be able to:

- read Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian documents at a basic level

A BRIEF HISTORY

Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian are in the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Germanic includes English, Dutch, Frisian, German, Afrikaans, Icelandic and Faeroese. Finnish belongs to a different language family altogether. The Indo-European family includes Russian, Polish, French, Spanish, and number of other languages, mostly found in Europe and a swath that reaches into India.

Here is how to search a webpage for a specific word:

On a PC press the 'control' button and hold it down while you press the 'F' button. Depending on the browser you use, a box will appear at the top right, left, or bottom left. Type a word or any letter string, i.e. part of a word, into the box. That letter string will then be highlighted. If there is more than one occurrence of that string, such will be indicated and you can click the arrow to find each occurrence.

On a Mac it's the command and f button at the same time.

Dictionaries, word lists and other aides:

Denmark:

1. FamilySearch Danish Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. It includes subsections for topical vocabulary items. The general word list is Danish to English.

2. Ordbog over det danske Sprog <https://ordnet.dk/ods>

This is an online version of this historical dictionary that covers the period from 1700-1950. It contains many vocabulary items that are no longer current.

3. dansk-engelske Ordbog

<https://books.google.com/books?id=S4gCAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

This Danish to English dictionary was published in 1861 so will contain many vocabulary items that are no longer current.

4. Denmark Abbreviations in Army Levying Rolls

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark_Abbreviations_in_Army_Levying_Rolls

This site lists many abbreviations found in army levying roles.

5. Denmark Feast Day Calendars

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark_Feast_Day_Calendars

This site will help you convert feast days to their Julian and Gregorian dates.

Sweden:

1. Swedish Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Swedish_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. The general word list is Swedish to English.

2. Svenska Akademiens Ordböcker <https://svenska.se/>

This site allows you to search three large dictionaries at one time. It contains many vocabulary items that are no longer current.

3. Swedish Historical Dictionary Database

<http://swedishgenealogyguide.com/dictionaries/swedish-historical-dictionary-database-shdd>

This is an online fully searchable version of Sven Niclas Wahrman's dictionary from 1814. It contains many vocabulary items that are no longer current.

4. Learning Center

<http://swedishgenealogyguide.com/learning-center>

This site contains about a dozen short videos about how to learn to read old Swedish documents.

Norway:

1. Norwegian Genealogical Word List

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norwegian_Genealogical_Word_List

This is the site to start with when looking for genealogical terms. The general word list is Norwegian to English.

2. Norsk Ordbog

<https://books.google.com/books?id=6DBcAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=norsk+ordbok&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjBk6m3ge3aAhXk7oMKHQ3fD2IQ6AEINjAD#v=onepage&q=norsk%20ordbok&f=false>

This Norwegian dictionary from Hans Ross was published in 1895 so will contain many vocabulary items that are no longer current. It is Norwegian only, so you might need a Norwegian to English dictionary to translate.

Common Scandinavian:

1. Scandinavian Handwriting

<https://www.familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/898>

This is a set of two one-hour long beginner videos that teach how to read letters and words in Scandinavian documents.

2. Nordic Names

https://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Main_Page

This is a wiki for Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, Faroese, Greenlandic, and Sami names. It is useful when you cannot read a name clearly in a document.